REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 28-30 are pending in this application and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,006,225 ("Bowman"). Applicants respectfully disagree and request reconsideration of the present application in light of the above claim amendments and the below recited remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicants' undersigned representative and the Examiner participated in a telephonic interview on July 29, 2005. During the interview, agreement was reached that the above claim amendments would be submitted. On August 5, 2005, Applicants' undersigned representative and the Examiner participated in a subsequent telephone conversation. During the conversation, the Examiner reviewed the above claim amendments and commented that the above claim amendments appeared to overcome the rejection of record.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-17 and 28-30 are pending in this application and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,006,225 ("Bowman"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The claimed invention is directed to refining a query by mapping the query to one or more search concepts. The tables on the following page provide an example of how an aspect of the claimed invention may be implemented. The first table is a query log that stores a number of query terms which have appeared in previous queries. The number next to each query term indicates the number of times that the query term has appeared in previous queries. The second table illustrates two search concepts (New York and Chicago). New York has two associated terms (Manhattan and Big Apple) and, and Chicago has two associated terms (Windy City and Illinois). New York has a popularity of 7 because its associated terms have appeared in the query log a total of 7 times. Chicago has a popularity of 3 because its associated terms have appeared in the query log a total of 3 times.

QUERY LOG
Manhattan (4)
Big Apple (3)
Windy City (2)
Illinois (1)

NEW YORK (7)	CHICAGO (3)
Manhattan	Windy City
Big Apple	Illinois

Bowman disclose a query refinement table (See Fig. 5A) with a number of columns. Each column has a key term (140) and a number of corresponding search terms (142). Each time a search term appears in the same query with a key term, a point is added to the search term in the key term's respective column of the query refinement table.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in contrast to independent claims 1 and 28 of the present invention, Bowman does not teach or suggest "calculating a relative popularity for the search concept by adding the number of times that each of the terms appears in the query log" Rather, Bowman merely discloses measuring how often terms appear in the same query with one another.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 14, 29 and 30 and new claims 33 and 34 are patentable at least by reason of their dependency. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections are respectfully requested.
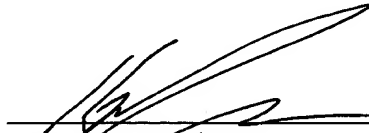
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added as a result of the above amendments. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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